



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Annual Street Census Underway in New Bedford

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The 2007 Annual Street Census is underway, and the City of New Bedford urges residents to watch their mail for the bright yellow envelopes, which contain the census forms to be completed and returned to the New Bedford Election Commission Office.

New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang called upon all residents to cooperate by responding thoroughly and promptly to the census. "The completed census data is an important resource for our city, it is essential that we maintain the most accurate and updated information regarding population," said Mayor Lang.

State law (Chapter 51 sec. 4) requires local registrars of voters to conduct the local census, or street listing, every year during the months of January and February. The purpose of the Annual Street Listing Census is to help the City to maintain the most accurate and updated voting list by removing the names of individuals who no longer reside in the City of New Bedford. This information compiled from the census material is used as a point of reference when residents need proof of residency for permits, such as liquor licenses, shellfish permits, and gun permits, as well as for employment purposes, veterans bonuses, tuition discounts and other privileges available to city residents. In addition, the information gathered allows city services and agencies to better meet the transportation, health and nourishment needs of our senior residents. The New Bedford Public School Department also utilizes the Street Listing Census data to plan for supplies and materials in the upcoming school year.

All residents, regardless of voter registration status, are required to complete the census. Instructions are provided in three languages: English, Portuguese, and Spanish. Residents are asked to make any corrections necessary, sign the completed form, and return it to the City within 10 days.

State law indicates that residents who fail to response to the census may be dropped from

the city's voting list. Maria Tomasia, Board of Election Commissioner reminds voters that in responding to the census they can avoid complications at the polls. "Voting is a right and privilege but the responsibility of registering and maintaining current voter status lies with the individual," she said.

On the reverse side of the form, residents will find a list of supermarkets where drop-off boxes are located for their convenience. Additionally, residents can return the completed census forms at the City of New Bedford white collection box located on Elm Street between Pleasant and Sixth Streets. Residents can also mail the census forms back the Board of Election Commissioners in the envelope provided.

If you are a New Bedford resident and have not received a census form call the Board of Election Commissioners at (508) 979-1421 and one will be mailed to you. Residents living in public housing and lodging house need not request one since a list is obtained directly from the Housing Authority.

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